

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0028] of the present specification as published with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Microbubble composition and the composition of the shell of the microbubble ~~affects~~ affect the half-life of the microbubbles, which in turn affects the ultrasonic absorption of tissues containing the microbubbles. Preferably, during the ablation procedure, microbubbles are present in the tissue to be ablated but not in adjacent structures of the body that lie in the path of the ultrasonic energy. The presence of microbubbles in myocardial tissue increases the rate of ultrasonic absorption in myocardial tissues compared to other tissues, such as venous tissue. Preferably, the half-life of the microbubbles is short, with an engineered half-life of less than one trip around the body. Thus, the half-life of the administered microbubbles would be sufficient to survive the relatively brief interval required for movement from the site of administration (such as the left atrium 22, left ventricle 18, aorta 26, or coronary artery 32) into the myocardial tissue 30, but not sufficient to survive a complete travel through the systemic circulation of the body.